

GSA

Self-Certification Pilot Process for Public Benefit Conveyances

Public benefit conveyances are properties that may be conveyed at discounts of up to 100 percent for specific purposes, including use for public health or educational facilities, public parks or recreational areas, historic monuments, correctional institutions, port facilities, public airports, and wildlife areas. If a grantee uses the property for other than its intended purpose, the government can take back the property. Under the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR), the General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for ensuring that public benefit conveyances to state and local agencies (grantees) for correctional use and wildlife conservation are used for those purposes.

Historically, GSA regional offices have conducted inspections on a 5-year cycle for wildlife compliance and a 2-year cycle for correctional compliance. The regional offices determined compliance status and submitted recommendations to GSA headquarters. GSA headquarters then notified the grantee of the results. If property was found to be out of compliance, it could revert to the federal government and GSA would dispose of it. These compliance activities placed heavy demands on GSA resources; moreover, several years of compliance inspections at more than 120 locations resulted in a minimal number of reverted properties.

In FY98, GSA reengineered its compliance program. After learning of the successful use of self-certification by the National Park Service, GSA decided to incorporate the idea into its own compliance inspection process. Self-certification allows the grantee to certify to GSA that there has been no change in the property's use. GSA is phasing in this new compliance inspection process for selected properties. Properties eligible for self-certification are those with exemplary compliance histories—that is, properties that are meeting the requirements of the management plans developed for them. GSA also reserves the right to perform inspections at any time if it believes that a property is not in compliance.

The new process is now under way; however, because it was implemented only recently, there is still insufficient information on its results. Expected benefits include

- Reduced administrative costs,
- Reduced paperwork, and
- Incentive for exemplary grantee compliance.

For more information about this program, please contact Peter Hebert, Deputy Director, GSA Property Disposal Division, Region 9, at (415) 522-3430 or by e-mail at peter.hebert@gsa.gov